God and Home Life.

INTRO. The request to preach on "Better Homes",

We are apt to forget our origins.
The home was the first school and the first altar of worship.
Both education and religion have largely functioned thru home-life and are still largely dependent upon the home ~~institution~~. In fact all our vital institutions depend upon our home life.
Destroy the home and the State, the School, the Church and Industry would lose their functional purpose of existance.

On the other hand, the reaction of these other vital insitiutions upon the home has been very great- without them the modern home could not exist. Perhaps no other influence has made home what it is than the influence of religion. And with all the shifting of emphasis from one thing to another, God still remains the master-influence upon home life.

Text. Ps.90:1 Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations.

I. Our highest conceptions of God come to us in terms of home hife and associations.
1. That of thexe- God our dwelling-place
2. God our Father
3. "Who is my mother and father and brother and sister, but they that do the will of my father in heaven?"
3. God is love. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son.

II. God sanctifies love in the home.

Homes in which Christ is honored, God is loved and obeyed, and the Bible is studied have in them an unselfish, sacrificing love which endures until the end.

II. Love in the home is often destroyed because of selfish neglect in the pursuit of other things for the getting of happiness, such as wealth, social position, personal power, pleasurable thrills.

But God in the home keeps the right balance. God makes home-love reciprocal, changes the center of things from self to the whole family, and subordinates to the family welfare all personal desires and pursuits.

III. Home is a place of shelter and God in the home makes it infinitely more so.

Home is more than a fireside and a roof, but a refuge from troubles, a protection from misunderstandings, a shelter for the heart, mind and soul.

God is our refuge and a very present help help in time of trouble. Underneath are the everlasting arms.

IV. Home is a place of supply. Children know this best of all. We grown-up children who make God our home, can go to Him an find in Him the abundant source of all our needs, whose grace is found adequate to meet every emergency of life,

V. Home gives us our greatest enjoyments and fullest happiness.

I am afraid that many are letting other things rob them of their highest joys and deepest satisfactions, found only in the home. They go either go away from home to get, or bring into the home, the world's pleasures, intoxications and thrills, thinking that in them is to be found the biggest "kick" out of life.

God in the home changes all of that. Communion with Him teaches us how to truly fellowship one with another. No greater joy is to be found than in loving and being loved, in helping and being helped, in sharing the joys and sorrows of life in the Christian way. All the shows and the races and the games and the liquors and the drugs and the evil practices in the world cannot give a single ounce of joy or happiness that is lasting and satisfying.

VI. God in the home makes it imperishable.

God in the home makes for the development of the lasting things of life, things that money cannot buy- character, right attitude and disposition, right service and conduct, right investment of time, energy and means.

Christ's conclusion to his sermon on the mount- he who heareth these words of mine and doeth them, shall be likened unto the man who built his house on the rock, etc.

trees bare, and everything chill and desolate. But round about the infant Jesus spring has broken out. Flowers are pushing their way thru the frozen soil, and there is a happy laughter of new and joyous life. In this symbol art reminds us of what X's coming has done for the world. Whereever Jesus goes flowers spring up, hard hearts are softened, sinful lives are changed Fresh blossomings everywhere trace his footsteps

smile & laughter

To be godlike is to be Christlike. This gives us more than a mystery to contemplate, but a definite plan and usable materials with which to build the grandest of all characters for the highest and most servicible living- a life hid with Christ in God.